

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00

AGR-20 L-03 H-02 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /151 W

----- 127888

R 220900 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1358

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PHNOM PENH 4978

FOR STATE/ AID

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, CB

SUBJECT: SOK CHHONG NAMED GOVERNOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK

1. THE KHMER PRESS PUBLISHED MAY 21 A DECREE DATED MAY 16 UNDER WHICH SOK CHHONG WAS NAMED GOVERNOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF CAMBODIA REPLACING HING KUNTHEL, WHO IS LEAVING MAY 25 FOR MANILA WHERE HE WILL BECOME THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ADB REPRESENTING THE KHMER REPUBLIC, LAOS, SRI LANKA, AND AFGHANISTAN.

2. THE GKR COULD NOT HAVE FOUND A STRONGER OR MORE

QUALIFIED REPLACEMENT THAN SOK CHHONG. WE WORKED CLOSELY WITH HIM IN 1971-1972 WHEN AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FINANCE HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PUTTING INTO EFFECT THE STABILIZATION PROGRAM ON WHICH OUR ECONOMIC AID AND THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND HAVE BEEN BASED. KNOWLEDGEABLE, INTELLIGENT, AND FEARLESS, HE WILL ADD
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STATUTE AND REAL COMPETENCE TO THE KHMER ECONOMIC TEAM.

3. A CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER AS WELL, SOK CHHONG WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY IN TAM, CHENG HENG, AND FORMER DECOCRAT SON SANN FOR THE GOVERNORSHIP OF THE BANK. WE ALSO PUT IN A WORD FOR HIM. SIRIK MATAK' S REPUBLICANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, OPPOSED SOK CHHONG AS PRIME MINISTER AND ARE DOUBTLESS LESS THAN HAPPY ABOUT HIM NOMINATION TO THE BANK. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, HE TAKES OFFICE WITH AN UNUSUAL DEGREE OF SUPPORT FROM THE KHMER AND FOREIGN COMMUNITIES.
SWANK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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